

Amendment to the Abstract:

The Abstract has been amended. A revised Abstract, including the changes reflected below, is attached.

Footwear ~~(1)~~ with a lace fastening ~~comprises~~ includes an opening ~~(5)~~ with a first edge ~~(5a)~~ and a second edge. ~~(5b) which~~ The first and second edges are juxtaposed and each of ~~which edge~~ carries a respective plurality of lacing eyes. ~~and a~~ At least two laces ~~(20, 21)~~ extending through respective pairs of the lacing eyes ~~(11a, b 17 a, b)~~. The ends of both of the laces converge on both of the edges of the opening, with at least one end of each lace ~~(20, 21)~~ extending through a respective end lacing eye ~~(17a, 17b)~~ of the fastening provided on each of the opposite edges.